

Serial No. 10/620,732
Response and Amendment A, dated January 5, 2005
Reply to Office Action, dated October 5, 2004

REMARKS

This response addresses the Office Action mailed October 5, 2004.
Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

I. Claims 9-11, 15, 17-21, 23 and 26-28

Applicant's Claims 17-21 and 26-28 were allowed and Applicant's dependent Claims 9-11, 15 and 23 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indicated allowance and allowability of these claims.

II. Abstract

In the Office Action, an objection was made to the Abstract for being too long. Included with this response is an amendment that addresses this objection.

III. Applicant's Claims 2-8, 13, 14, 16 and 25

In the Office Action, Applicant's Claims 2-8, 13, 14, 16 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Applicant submits that these claims, as originally presented, satisfy the requirements 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. However, in the interest of expediting allowance of the present application, these claims have been amended to further clarify the recited subject matter. These amendments are not intended to narrow the scope of these claims.

IV. Applicant's Claims 1, 12, 16, 22 and 24

In the Office Action, Applicant's Claims 1, 12, 16, 22 and 24 were rejected as obvious over the combination of Kimura (U.S. Pat. No. 6,385,536) and Kepler (U.S. Appl. 20020120397). Applicant traverses the rejections of these claims.

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Applicant's independent Claim 1

Applicant's independent Claim 1 relates to a method for representing lanes with a "road database." According to Applicant's Claim 1, "*data representations of physical road lanes*" are stored in the "road database." Further according to Applicant's Claim 1, associated with each "*data representation of a physical road lane*" is "*data indicating start and end points of the represented physical road lane*" and "*data indicating what linearly extending physical features are adjacent to and extend along the represented physical road lane on a right side and a left side thereof*."

Kimura relates to a vehicle navigation apparatus that includes a camera (Kimura: column 6, lines 23-28). The camera is used in conjunction with a lane marker detector (Kimura: column 6, lines 28-32). The lane marker detector is used to determine which road the vehicle is on after it has passed a fork in the road (Kimura: column 6, lines 36-47).

Kepler relates to way to provide directions for following a route. According to Kepler, after a route is generated, directions for following the route are prepared using retail signage, names of businesses or other common landmarks, instead of names of streets (Kepler: paragraph 0006).

In the Office Action, it was acknowledged that Kimura did not disclose data that indicated what physical features are adjacent to a represented physical road segment on a right side and a left side thereof, as recited in Applicant's Claim 1. However, the Office Action stated that Kepler teaches a system and method for retrieving physical features, such as residential, government and business listings, from a database. The Office Action concluded that it would have been obvious to modify Kimura to include the teachings of Kepler so that a user could find other places of interest for making a stop while on a recommended route to a destination.

Applicant's Claim 1 is not obvious over the combination of Kimura and Kepler because all the limitations of the claim are not disclosed by these references. Specifically, even if Kimura and Kepler were combined, the resultant combination fails to disclose a "road database" that includes "*data indicating what linearly extending physical features are adjacent to and extend along the represented physical road lane on*

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a right side and a left side thereof", as recited in Applicant's Claim 1. In the Office Action, it was acknowledged that Kimura failed to disclose this limitation of Applicant's claim. With respect to Kepler, the types of geographic features disclosed by Kepler as being adjacent to a road include landmarks, retail signage, names of businesses, residential, government and business listings. These kinds of features are points defined by geographic coordinates, such as latitude and longitude (Kepler: paragraph 0024). These kinds of features disclosed by Kepler are not "*linearly extending physical features*" and do not "*extend along the represented physical road lane on a right side and a left side thereof*." Thus, Kepler also fails to disclose these limitations of Applicant's Claim 1.

Because all the limitations of Applicant's Claim 1 are not disclosed by the combination of Kimura and Kepler, Applicant's claim is not obvious. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 1 be withdrawn.

Applicant's independent Claim 22

Applicant's independent Claim 22 relates to a "*database that models roads*." According to Applicant's Claim 22, the "*database*" includes "*data representations of physical road lanes*" each of which includes "*data indicating start and end points of the represented physical road lane*" and "*data indicating what linearly extending physical features are adjacent to and extend along the represented physical road lane on a right side and a left side thereof*." Applicant's Claim 22 distinguishes the combination of Kimura and Kepler for similar reasons as Claim 1.

Applicant's dependent Claims 12, 16 and 24

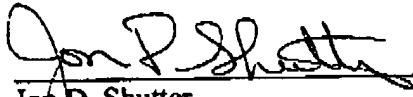
Applicant's dependent Claims 12, 16 and 24 are allowable at least for the reasons that their respective independent base claims are allowable. In addition, these dependent claims include limitations that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the combination of Kimura and Kepler.

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V. Conclusion

With this response, Applicant has addressed all the issues in the Office Action mailed October 5, 2004. Applicant submits that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. If any issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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